

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 6504

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304276

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT SOFIA 2799, SENT ACTION SECSTATE,  
INFO WARSAW, MOSCOW, DEC 27, 1975:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, ICNAF, XN, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIA DECIDES NOT TO ENTER OBJECTION TO MONTREAL  
ICNAF RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: A. SOFIA 2798 B. STATE 299422

1. LATE MORNING SAT DEC 27 AMB WAS SUMMONED TO MFA AND INFORMED BY KARASIMEONOV, HEAD OF LEGAL AND TREATIES BUREAU, THAT US POSITION AND AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV LATE DEC 26; AND AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE THE MINISTER HAD DECIDED "IN INTEREST OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US" TO REVERSE THE EARLIER DECISION TO ENTER AN OBJECTION TO THE MONTREAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. KARASIMEONOV SAID IT HAD BEEN A CLOSE THING, WITH NOT ONLY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (MAF) BUT ALSO HIGH OFFICIALS IN MFA ARGUING THAT DECISION TO FILE AN OBJECTION WOULD BE STRICTLY WITHIN BULGARIA'S RIGHTS AND IN ITS ECONOMIC INTEREST; AND THE CHARGE HAD BEEN MADE THAT WEAKWILLED DIPLOMATS FOR POLITICAL REASONS WERE PREVENTING THE MAF FROM FULFILLING ITS  
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PLAN. ("YOU KNOW", HE SAID, "HOW POWERFUL ECONOMIC INTERESTS

CAN BE.") IT SHOULD ALSO BE REMEMBERED, HE SAID, THAT MLADENOV HAD TO REVERSE A DECISION THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE. THIS HAD BECOME POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD "FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE."

3. HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY MLADENOV, SAID KARASIMEONOV, TO STRESS TO US (A) GOB CONCERN OVER WHAT IT CONSIDERS UNFAIR TREATMENT AT THE OTAVET MEETING; (B) HOPE THAT IN CLIMATE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES THE US WOULD TAKE INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD AS PER REFTEL A ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE RESTRAINT SHOWN BY THE GOB; (C) THE HOPSTN MORE SPECIFICALLY, THAT US WOULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO SUPPORTING A RECTIFICATION OF THE MONTREAL ALLOCATIONS FOR PANELS III AND IV AT THE ROME MEETING IN JANUARY, IN SPIRIT OF FAIRNESS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION.

AW4. INCIDENTALLY, YANKOV HAPPENS TO BE IN SOFIA, HE ADDED, AND HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THIS SITUATION AND SENDS PERSONAL REGARDS TO HIS LOS COUNTERPARTS IN THE USG.

5. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT BULGARIA HAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE AN ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HARMFUL NOT ONLY TO OTHER ICNAF MEMBERS BUT ALSO TO BULGARIA'S OWN INTERESTS. HE INQUIRED WHETHER GOB EXPECTS TO GET MUCH SUPPORT, AS AN OUTSIDERS, FOR INCREASE OF ITS ALLOCATION IN PANELS III AND IV. KARASIMEONOV RESPONDED BY SAYING BULGARIA IS NOT AN OUTSIDER. IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND IS PAYING ITS DUES. IT FULLY EXPECTS SUPPORT FROM OTHER "SOCIALIST" ICNAF MEMBERS. HE ALSO REJECTED ANY IMPLICATION THAT BULGARIA'S ORIGINAL DECISION TO FILE AN OBJECTION HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LAST MINUTE. HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT (CF. PENULTIMATE SENTENCE PARA 2 REFTEL B) HAD NOTIFIED THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY ONLY NOV 26 OF WITHDRAWAL OF THE US OBJECTION, AND THAT NOTIFICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED HERE BY POUCH ONLY MID-DECEMBER.

6. FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANT, SAID KARASIMEONOV, HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO PROPOSE THE HOLDING OF BILATERAL US-BULGARIAN TALKS ON FISHERIES PROBLEMS BETWEEN "EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS" OF THE TWO SIDES. SUCH TALKS WOULD BE BROADER THAN DISCUSSIONS WITHIN ICNAF AND COULD COVER WHOLE RANGE OF MUTUAL PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR BETTER COOPER-  
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ATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION TO GOB REQUESTS IN PARAS 3 AND 6 ABOVE, PRIOR TO ICNAF MEETING IN MID-JANUARY. HERZ UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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